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Your Tech on Call.

December 9, 2003

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NV5-100

Dr. Jeffrey W. Runge, Administrator National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration 400 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW Washington, DC 20590

Dear Dr. Runge:

I understand that the NHTSA is considering changes to national fuel economy standards. As I understand it, just a 7.7MPG increase in average fuel efficiency would enable us to eliminate our dependence oil from the Mideast. Rather than focusing on fuel efficiency, we are currently spending billions of dollars to protect our oil interests there.

My car is a Toyota Prius. I am currently evaluating mileage standards for my field service employees. I have a strong commitment to protecting our environment.

Since all of my relatives drive SUVs, I would like to know what the NHTSA is planning to increase SUV fuel efficiency and safety. As I understand it, the Union of Concerned Scientists has proposed an SUV design called the Guardian that would save thousands of lives through improved safety while improving fuel efficiency to 27.5MPG. Could you please let me know whether you plan to support this design?

Sincerely,

Susan Labandibar

President

574 Dorchester Avenue South Boston, MA 02127 Tel: (617) 269 0299 Fax: (617) 269 0821 email: sales@yourtechoncall.com www.yourtechoncall.com